

**MAGIC IN NAMES
AND IN
OTHER THINGS**

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Magic in names and in other things by Edward Clodd

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EDWARD CLODD

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Printed in Great Britain.

PREFATORY NOTE

THE world-wide superstition, examples of which form the staple of this book, has scarcely received the attention warranted by the important part which it has played, and still plays, in savage and civilized belief and ritual.

The book is an enlargement of a lecture on "Magic in Names," delivered at the Royal Institution in March 1917. There are incorporated into it some portions of an *Essay on Savage Philosophy in Folk-lore*, which was published in 1898. The book has been long out of print, and I beg to thank Messrs. Duckworth and Co. for permission to make extracts therefrom.

I have also to thank my wife for her valued help in the tedious work of revision of proof sheets.

E. C.

*Strafford House,
Aldeburgh, Suffolk.*

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MAGIC IN NAMES

CHAPTER I

MAGIC AND RELIGION

IN an article on "magic" contributed to Hastings's *Encyclopædia of Religion and Ethics*, Dr. Marett says that "the problem of its definition constitutes a veritable storm-centre in the anthropological literature of to-day."

In this disturbed zone the questions of (1) the origin and elements of magic, and (2) its place in the order of man's spiritual evolution, are discussed. Upon each of these only brief comment is here necessary.

As to the *first* question, one set of combatants contend that magic is "pseudo-science" ¹—"the physics of the savage," as Dr. Adolf Bastian defines it. "It cannot," says Sir Alfred Lyall, "be doubted that magic is founded on some dim notion of cause and effect which is the necessary basis of all human reasoning and experience." ²

¹ *Primitive Culture*, by Sir E. B. Tylor, Vol. I. pp. 112, 119 (Third Edition).

² *Asiatic Studies*, 2nd Series, p. 182.